

# MISSIONARIES OF THE SACRED HEART

*May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere Loved!*



Vol. 08 / N° 4 - 2019 December

## GENERAL BULLETIN

***Dear brothers, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, formands and members of the Chevalier Family,***



***- HAPPY NEW YEAR -***

May each of you have a happy and grace-filled Christmas and may the New Year hold many blessings for you.

We've reached the end of another year. And once again we want to share with our entire Chevalier Family some of our news and accompaniments from the General Council around the world. In a special way, we share an article written by the MSC Lay couple who are working on the common mission with our religious in Mozambique. In this Bulletin, we also want to remember our confreres who have died in recent months. Since many confreres have known one another, it will be an invitation to pray together

for the deceased, thanking God for the life of each of them among us and recommending their souls to the Lord of Life. We also give some initial information about the meeting of treasurers held in Rome at the beginning of this month. We will provide further details of this event in the next Bulletin.

This moment when we turn over the page of the calendar of the year is a time for "new beginnings". It is time for change and evaluation. We hope that the basis for all these new beginnings, changes and evaluations is the fact that each one of us, in our different places and ministries, feels part of our CHEVALIER FAMILY and that we are no alone. More than knowing, we need to feel that we are not alone and that we are looking to the future with the same certainty that our Founder had when he said to us: "I am convinced that our Society, in the designs of Divine Providence, is destined for great things and that it will have a great future, on condition that it is not half religious, but entirely and without reserve" (1887).

We can regard 2020 as just another year, or as 365 opportunities to make the Sacred Heart loved everywhere!

*Humberto Henriques, MSC*

**December 26th, 2019**

**TRANSLATIONS AND CORRECTIONS**

**TONY ARTHUR, MSC (AUSTRALIAN PROVINCE)**

## ONE HEART, ONE MISSION: The experience of mission by a lay MSC couple working together with the professed MSC in África



Let us begin by telling you a little about how it all began: our vocational journey as lay members of the Chevalier Family:

We met a Missionary of the Sacred Heart, Father Mauricio, in an unusual way; it was not in church, but at a moment of pain in our family, the death of my mother-in-law. A friend of hers brought him to the funeral celebration and we met there. In the following weeks, he visited us, showing his solidarity with us and taking care of us during the first days of mourning. Thus, he became a great friend to our family.

At that time our two children were small and we didn't actively participate in the Church, we just went to Mass. Time went by and little by little we returned to participate in some activities, until in 2003 Doris was invited to participate in a meeting with the Missionary Fathers of the Sacred Heart in the Seminary of Philosophy.

Today, 15 years later, we are laypeople of the Chevalier Family and our family breathes the Spirituality of the Heart and

the Charism of Father Jules Chevalier.

During this time we have had several experiences of being “on mission”: in Mato Grosso, Ecuador, Miguel Alves (interior of Piauí, twice) and Amazonia. On two occasions, we welcomed missionaries from Ecuador who stayed with us for one year, two young women, because as Father Luis Mosconi says: "Mission is Life and Life is Mission".

As we have already said in the previous paragraphs, the Chevalier Family has become part of our family and vice versa. Thus, we always used to tell some Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of our desire that when we retired and our two children, James and Philip, were no longer dependent on us, we would like to go out on the *missio ad gentes*, because we understood that we could provide a service for the Chevalier Family in building the Kingdom of God, bringing the witness of God's Love to the world from the perspective of a lay couple. And so this idea was built up and matured, and today we affirm, without a shadow of a doubt, that we have been blessed and graced by God. For a long time, the impression was given that this blessing would tskr its concrete in Ecuador, because of our involvement with that MSC Mission. But as we always say: God's ways are not necessarily thought of with our logic so here we are on this continent where everything seems to be at the beginning of creation.



When we were approved, for some time it seemed that it was not true. Time passed and preparations began and we arrived here on May 6, 2019, right after Cyclone Kenneth. Everything was devastated. The first departure from the capital of Cabo Delgado was two days after we arrived, with Bishop Luis Fernando, our Bishop. My God, how did you let this happen to these people who already have so little? My God, why did you put us here? And so it was with our arrival on this continent where we Brazilians have a historical debt, because of our history as a country. Yes, unfortunately our country for 350 years was developed by the slave labor of men and women who were uprooted from their homeland, Africa. Maybe this historical aspect of our lives is something that has marked our arrival and stay here. At various times, we feel ashamed of such atrocities carried out by human hands. Unfortunately in some moments the human being, to the detriment of his will, forgets that the other was also created in the image and likeness of God.

People walked with their heads down, even wounded. Their lives had been hit full on, because where there is very little, any loss makes such a big difference. They had lost their houses, plantations, lives and perhaps, also, the courage to continue. Some people even wondered why we were there at a time like this. In fact, we have the impression that it even seems that they do not feel worthy of the presence of Missionaries.

After all, they are so mistreated by the moral aggressions that we see every day: lack of schools, lack of health care, lack of medicine, lack of water, corruption and so many other things.

With regard to the plantations, some families have lost everything, with not even the seeds left to remake the jambas (plantations), which means that hunger will increase.



Our work was timidly begun, helping people to regain their self-esteem, being only together with them, speaking little, trying to be a presence and witness to the Love of God. After 7 months we are involved in various works such as Youth, Catechesis, Caritas Projects, Projects of the Diocese of Rehabilitation of Houses, communication, fundraising campaigns with the laity to help in the reconstruction of chapels that were affected by the Cyclone and of course our usual house work such as washing, cooking, searching for water, cleaning the house, raising animals and so on.

We cannot forget that our mission takes place in a large geographical space, where we are a religious minority, a minority because we are foreigners, a minority because we are white, a minority because we do not speak the local dialects, or understand the traditions inherent to African culture. We can say that these are the 'shadows' of our Mission. As everything exists, there are two paths, we do not find only shadows. The lights also illuminate our day: to witness to the grace of the presence of Catholic Christians who for decades have persevered in the faith, most of the time in a hostile environment, the joy of the sincere conversion of people of all ages, the joy and the strength to live, the affectionate welcome towards the Missionaries. This makes us believe that the hope "May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved everywhere" is fully possible.

As members of a joint mission between laity and religious, we feel that we are participating in something new, which, if taken seriously by both sides, we see as a prophetic church for the present and the future. Obviously, the Lay members of the Chevalier Family need to be prepared and mature in faith, to face the diversity that a Mission like this presents us with every day. But it is precisely this diversity that enriches us as a missionary community, not only as an MSC Community but as people who are inserted in a suffering reality, abandoned and witnessing to a new way of evangelization.

In this moment that our humanity lives, where everything and everyone is disposable, we hope that this experience does not enter into this way of discarding, especially on the part of the Lay of the Chevalier Family. That the layperson of the Chevalier Family can perceive the great value of putting himself/herself at the disposition without restriction to make the Heart of God loved in all, all the confines of the world.

*Doris and Ranulfo (Lay of the Chevalier Family, Missionaries in Mozambique )*



## COMMUNITY IN VICHY OF THE ISSOUDUN COMMUNITY

From 14 to 18 October 2019, the members of the Issoudun community held a community week in Vichy, more precisely at La Maison du Missionnaire.

It was also an opportunity for P. Sebastian Rayappan, P. Martin Sagayaraj and P. Yongki Wawo to return to Vichy, where they had begun to learn French in this beautiful city. And of course for the other confreres (Fr. Gabriel Naikoua, Fr. Emerson De León Gervacio, Fr. Gérard Blattmann and Fr. Alfred and Brother Simon) as a moment to discover the place that had been inhabited by their three young confreres for 8 months.

During the community week, many topics were discussed, including the challenges, opportunities and joys of mission in the Berry region of central France.

This year's community week was also led by Mme. Capucine Couchet and Fr. Andre Claessens, MSC.

At 8:45 am every day after breakfast, we commenced our activities. Each day was punctuated by a time of prayer to listen to the Word, followed by a time of silence and mediation, then the members of the Issoudun community met in small groups to share the experience of their prayer. After sharing about 30 minutes, we discussed important topics that had been prepared by Mme. Capucine Couchet (for the first and second days) and then by P. Andre Claessens, MSC (for the third and fourth days) until 10:45 am (before the daily mass).

At 11:00 am there was Mass (either in the



oratory or in the chapel) not far from "La Maison du Missionnaire". After Mass, we went straight to the dining room for lunch, at exactly 12:00 noon every day.

After the meal, there was time for yourself. In addition, from 3pm to 6pm, it was an opportunity to discuss or listen to conferences while sharing what was experienced in the missions in Issoudun. It is truly a great blessing that we can live together in an international community, where there are colourful differences: age, background, nationality, etc. In short, we are 8 members of the MSC Issoudun community, an intercultural and intergenerational community.

At the end of our activity in Vichy, Father André did not forget to remind us of what Pope Francis told the participants of the General Chapter of the Missionaries of the

Sacred Heart (MSC) on 16 September 2017. The Pope encouraged and recommended that the MSC should take care of "lost and wounded sheep" and be present "wherever a human being expects to be helped and listened to". But also "to educate and accompany the new generations in the learning of human values and the culture of an evangelical vision of life and history". For this mission, we must be rooted in the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Thank you for this wonderful opportunity. Good mission.

*Yongki Wawo, MSC*



## ACCOMPANIMENT TO MSC'S LIVING IN THE CARIBBEAN

In the popular imagination and this happens all over the world, to think of the Caribbean is to think of beaches, white sand, seas with turquoise water, colonial cities, forests and green mountain areas, resorts etc. But in the islands that make up the, formerly called Insular America or Caribbean area in the

American continent, there is much more than that. And to be more specific: in the area of MSC presences in the Caribbean:

Dominican Republic, Haiti and Cuba, it is even clearer that behind tourism there is a group of Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and Laity of the Chevalier Family who live out their

missionary commitment with much enthusiasm and hope.

The missionary commitment is carried out above all in parish apostolic ministries. Very lively and historical parishes for our congregation. There are also three houses of formation: the prenovitiate in Santo Domingo, the house of formation in Port-au-Prince, the aspirancy and novitiate at the Vocational Center in Licey al Medio. Certainly a novitiate that

for many years has been open to receive many generations from Latin America and some from Europe. Bruno Joyal, who has lived there for more than fifty years and is now the largest MSC in this region of the world.

Through personal and community accompaniment I had the opportunity to meet confreres who live their mission of accompaniment to the people of God with the characteristic joy of the people of the Caribbean, with a taste of merengue and bachata (music typical of this region) with a taste of cazabe, mangú and zancocho (typical



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food) but with an experience and expression of faith of a living Church and in some places struggling to maintain the prophetic commitment and solidarity with the most disadvantaged in society. There is a strong invitation to consider apostolates that have to do with integral human promotion as apostolic ministries according to our MSC charism. The reality is leading the Caribbean Church to assume a true prophetic commitment that builds actions and





## VISIT TO MOZAMBIQUE

Because of cyclone *Kenneth* that impacted the Pemba region of Mozambique in May this year, our visit to the mission of Meluco was delayed till November.

Fr. Humberto, coming from India, and Fr. Andre, coming from Cameroon, met at Johannesburg airport on the 12<sup>th</sup> where a small aircraft conveyed us to Pemba International Airport. Fr. Eduardo Paixão and Mrs Doris Machado were waiting to meet us. That evening, at about 6 o'clock, we reached Meluco where Fr. Valdecir Soares and Doris husband Ranulfo prepared supper for all of us. It was a warm welcome !

After supper Valdecir drove us to another quarter of the small town where the MSC plan to build a new house graciously helped by the solidarity of the Dutch province. The rest of the week we slept here and for the meals we joined the others in the house they are renting. Since half a year Doris and Ranulfo, Lay MSC from the province of São Paulo, have been living and working with our confreres. It is amazing to see how affectionately the children have adopted them so that the couple feel very much at ease and are willing to remain until mid-2020. We had a few meetings to learn about the joys and sorrows of this new mission that started in 2017. Bishop Luiz, a Brazilian Passionist, entrusted to the MSC a large area with 3 centres: **Meluco, Quissanga and Ibo**. We could see evidence of the devastation caused by the cyclone, especially in the last two areas. The community is deeply grateful to all those MSC who have contributed to the aid fund that has been raised since last May. It is a very poor area with many missionary challenges and in need of first evangelisation. Eduardo and Valdecir took us to several places where we met some small communities often with numbers of young people. You could feel that the arrival of a missionary community had created high expectations! Soon a community of sisters will be established near the MSC house. Yes, there is a lot to do to respond to various needs and the people are eager to collaborate. On the 18<sup>th</sup> we said *'atè a vista'* and returned to Rome wishing our missionaries joy and courage in their ministries.



Andre Claessens, MSC



**INTERNACIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE SACRED HEART DEVOTION**

**THE SACRED HEART DEVOTION INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE** was held November 8, 9 at Villa Aurelia in Rome. It was hosted by the Priests of the Sacred Heart (Dehonians), in conjunction with the Lucerne University of Teacher Education, under the Patronage of the Pontifical Council for Culture.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart was considered from multi-disciplinary perspectives, by academics from France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, the US, Canada and Indonesia focussing on iconography, memory, emotion and body in the language, imagery and rituals of the Sacred Heart. Among the theologians, historians, religious scientists, sociologist and art historians who presented their research, these are a few;

Professor David Morgan and Dr. Paul Airiau, explored the development of the iconography in the French school, with Cardinal de Berulle, Jean-Jacques Olier (founder of the Sulpicians), and Jean Eudes, who focused on the sentiments of the Heart of Christ which are signified using symbolic representations. Against this was pitted the anatomically detailed human heart of the person of Jesus promoted by the Jesuits. An interesting rivalry. The piety of Margaret Mary Alacoque in the development of the devotion received frequent mention.

A Spanish academic María Antonia Herradón Figueroa PhD, exposed the influences that the devotion has had on politics in Spain, particularly mentioning its use by conservative partisans. One of the famous images of the anti-Catholic persecution in the Spanish Civil War was the Red militiamen shooting the statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Cerro de los Ángeles in 1936. The cry of «*Viva Cristo Rey*» is associated with this. General Franco later rebuilt the monument.

The theologian Professor Elke Pahud de Mortanges, investigated the relationship of embodiment to the devotion; the individual body, ecclesia as body, geo-political bodies and gender. The Sacred Heart has been a motive in all these modes. Professor Fransiskus Purwanto, reflected on the non-western expression of the devotion seen in the Shrine to the Sacred Heart in Ganjuran, Indonesia. Professor Nicolas Steeves, of the Pontifical Gregorian University, shared some enticing ideas with regard the Sacred Heart as a fundamental stimulus for theological imagination. Most stimulating was his thoughts on *faith as imagination*.

I look forward to further opportunities to visit such research. Perhaps they will include our own developments in Heart Spirituality.

Chris Chaplin, MSC



## **DEACON BONIFACE'S FUNERAL**

Deacon Boniface Perdjert was the first indigenous married deacon in the Australian Church. At the time of his birth his people were traditional nomadic hunters and gatherers with almost no contact with the wider world. A year before Deacon Boniface was born, in 1935, Australian MSC brought the gospel to his traditional lands. Forty years later he was ordained a Catholic deacon on those same traditional lands. But his ordination did not separate him from his rich cultural and spiritual heritage and until his death early in 2019 he remained a major ceremonial and community leader among his people. For 40 years he was a deacon among his people, but also a deacon at the masses of three successive popes.

The Superior General Fr Abzalón, who met Deacon Boniface during his visit to Wadeye last year, wrote in his letter of condolence of Boniface's unfailing support to the numerous MSCs who came as missionaries to Wadeye:

*Time and again he welcomed new faces to his world, and with unfailing patience was there to help them to understand your unique culture with its own fresh perspective on the Gospel message. Any missionary to another culture needs humility and a capacity to see the world through different eyes. No doubt Deacon Boniface found some of my confreres more open to this invitation than others.*

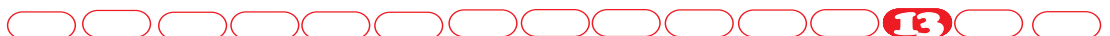
As Deacon Boniface said in Rome at the canonization of the first Australian saint, Mary McKillop.

*God has made us all different. We have all come from different places in Australia and we are all made by God. Now we are on this journey together and we have been sharing these days in a good spirit and enjoying each other on this journey to Rome where the Holy Father will make one from our land one of the Saints.*

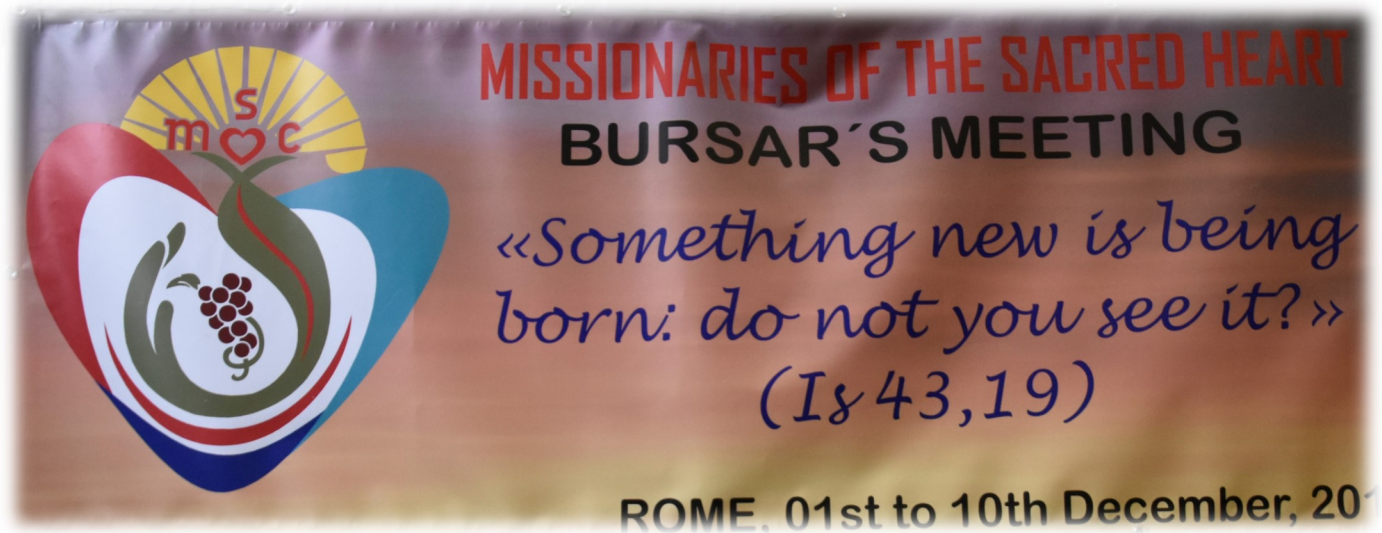
***"May he rest in peace."***



Tim Brennan, MSC



**THANKS SO MUCH!**



You made it possible!

Something new is being born, don't you see?

Recognition of two MSCs who believed in the possibility of initiating a process of co-creation of congregational thinking from the ministry of economy to mission.

They are: Manolo Barahona (Spain) and Bernard Mongeau (Canada)

Thanks to their support and the time they dedicated to this project, we were able to successfully hold the first meeting of all provincial treasurers and the bursars from the MSC unions. May this public mention serve as a tribute and thanksgiving to both of them and at the same time, as a recognition of the great human resources that exist in our Congregation.

Thank you Manolo for your perseverance and your capacity for synthesis and organization. We have learned from you to feel that material resources are for the mission and property of the whole congregation not just of one or the other entity.

Thank you Bernard for your patience in the search and research on the economy and for being the animating presence in the whole live process.

Through the leadership teams of the entities and/or their respective bursars you will receive copies of the final declaration of this meeting and we will have more information about the declaration in the next Bulletin.

For the present we want, in this note, to recognize the value and the capacity of work of these two confreres, Manolo and Bernard, who have helped us in the realization of this meeting.

On behalf of the whole Congregation THANK YOU VERY MUCH and we continue to count on you..





## **COMMUNICATIONS**

**Absence from the Religious Congregation for more than twelve months means automatic (ipso facto) dismissal.**

Pope Francis on the Feast of St Joseph in March 2019 published a document called *Communis Vita*. The title of the document is *Community Life*.

This *Motu Proprio* makes a new law concerning a religious who leaves his community to and go and live elsewhere.

The Pope is addressing when the religious institute loses all contact with the absent religious.

The Pope has added a new paragraph to Canon 694.

In simple terms it means when a person cannot be found after twelve month he is legally declared to be no longer an MSC.

The Major Superior in Council declares that absence. The decision is then presented to the Vatican by the Superior General before it becomes final.

[http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/it/motu\\_proprio/documents/papa-francesco-motu-proprio-20190319\\_communis-vita.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/it/motu_proprio/documents/papa-francesco-motu-proprio-20190319_communis-vita.html)